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Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal

Implementation of Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act

Root Cause of a Health Care Monopoly

Over the past 62 years of publication, HMJ has published papers by physicians with law degrees or legal interests and some by attorneys with medical interests. But this month's lead manuscript is truly unique: "Implementation of Hawaii's Prepaid Healthcare Act: Root Cause of a Health Care Monopoly." The manuscript by Patricia L. Chinn, MD, JD, is presented to our readers in a format not too familiar. It is reprinted just as it appeared in the Hawaii Bar Journal. The reader will find references (in very small type) on the same page - not at the back of the article. This was the usual format of medical journals many years ago. With the massive amount of references Pat Chinn refers to, it's a blessing not to have to go to the last page to see the references.

We knew Pat Chinn as a student and resident at John A. Burns School of Medicine (1972-1979) and as a very active officer of the Hawaii Federation of Physicians and Dentists (1990-1999), and the Hawaii Medical Association when she served as our President in 1999.

Pat went further and because of her legal interests subsequently entered the University of Hawaii W. S. Richardson School of Law, getting her JD degree in 2002. Today's paper was started as a member of the Law Review. In addition to her numerous medical organizations, Pat is a member of the American Bar Association; a Fellow of the American College of Legal Medicine; the American Health Lawyers Association; the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; and the Hawaii State Bar Association.

This lengthy, historic article will help our readers understand how and why our present healthcare market has developed. Dr. Pat Chinn is in private medical practice in Honolulu with special interests in Breast Disease, Laparoscopic Surgery, and Long Term Care.

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